brought out by private organisations with assistance from the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C.LENKA): (a) Sir, The ICAR is bringing out four research journals and 2 semi-technical magazines in English and 3 semi-technical magazines in Hindi. None of the magazines is bilingual.

(b) All the 3 semi-technical magazines brought out in Hindi, are research based.

(c) During the last three years, 90 journals, brought out by private organisations, were financed by matching grants from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[English]

Statutory Status to SCs/STs Commission

1503. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI:
KUMARI UMA BHARTI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission has been accorded statutory status;

(b) if so, the details of the powers and jurisdiction of the said Commission; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). Under the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990, constitutional status would be accorded to the National Commission on SC/ST which will be constituted shortly. The functions of the Commission are contained in the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990.

Horticultural Development in Kerala

1504. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the total amount allotted for the development of horticulture in Kerala during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): The financial allocation to Kerala for horticultural development during 1989–90, 1990–91 and 1991–92 is as under:–

Year	*Funds alloted (Amount in Rs.)*
1989–90	1,24,28,950.00
1990–91	1,59,94,060.00
1991–92	6,24,80,625.00

Ethnic Groups on Indo–Burma Border

1506. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ethnic groups which are living on both sides of the Indo–Burma border;

(b) whether there is any agreement between the two countries to facilitate interaction among the groups;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any facility exists for the movement across the border for legitimate and recognised purposes by these groups; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Nagas and Mizos are among the major ethnic groups inhabiting the areas close to the Indo–Myanmar border.

(b) to (e). There is no formal agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Myanmar to facilitate interaction among the ethnic groups. However, an arrangement exists under which tribal people of both countries, who are ordinarily resident in the border areas, are allowed access across the border without passports and visas, provided they are in possession of valid permits issued by either Government. Under ths arrangement access is allowed within 40 kms of either side of the border.

National Commission for SCs/STs

1507. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which was created by Constitutional Amendment has been constituted'

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and the target date for its constitution;

(c) whether the post of the Commissoner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being abolished; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d). The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in accordance with amended Article 338 of the Constitution, is being constituted very shortly. The said Commission would replace the Special Officer popularly known as Commisioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes appointed, at present, under Art. 338.

Eradication of Untouchability

1508. SHR DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes undertaken for the eradication of untouchability; and

(b) the measures being taken to encourage inter–caste marriages and the incentives provided to them and their children in the field of education and employment?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). Central assistance is provided to the States on a 50:50 basis for the enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 for ensuring adequate facilities such as legal aid, setting up of special courts, incentives for promoting inter–caste marriages, etc. Educational and employment benefits available for Scheduled Cates will be applicable to those children born of inter–caste marriage who are brought up in and accepted by the Scheduled Caste community as Scheduled Castes.

Financial Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Research and Training to Scheduled Castes

1509. SHR DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the financial assistance provided to Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Research and Training relating to Scheduled Castes and the amount spent by the State Government during 1990–91?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Research and Training relating to Scheduled Castes, financial